

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 HA-05 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 PA-01
DODE-00 H-01 USIE-00 PM-05 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
/063 R

DRAFTED BY: EA/PHL:BAFLECK
APPROVED BY: EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA:RBOAKLEY
S/S- PTARNOFF
HA:MSCHNEIDER

-----068139 171344Z /40/61
Z 170053Z FEB 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 042011

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HOLBROOKE

S E C O N D C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1, LINE
3 INCORRECT)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP, US, OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REFS: A. MANILA 2445, B. MANILA 2568

1. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY YOUR CONVERSATION OF FEBRUARY 13
WITH MARCOS REPORTED REF A. IN YOUR NEXT CONVERSATION,
CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON
HIM THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY WHICH ELECTION AND VICE PRESIDENT
VISIT PROVIDE FOR SIGNIFICANT FORWARD MOVEMENT IN LONG-TERM
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US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS, IF ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS WELL
HANDLED.

2. YOU SHOULD IMPRESS UPON MARCOS THE NECESSITY OF CON-
VINING OUTSIDE OBSERVERS, INCLUDING USG AND CONGRESS, THAT
ELECTION WILL BE A TRULY FREE ONE IN WHICH PHILIPPINE

VOTERS ARE GIVEN GENUINE CHOICE. WHILE WE CANNOT OBJECT TO INCLUSION IN VOTING PROCEDURES OF VOLUNTARY BLOC VOTING, WHICH APPEARS SIMILAR TO VOLUNTARY STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET VOTING PROCEDURE IN SEVERAL OF OUR OWN STATES, WE REGRET THAT LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS FOUND IT UNACCEPTABLE AND CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY. WE ARE ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, BY REPORTS THAT INDIVIDUAL OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WILL CONTEST FOR SEATS IN THE METROPOLITAN MANILA AREA.

WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY PROSPECT OF EXTENSIVE DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE OF CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES AND SPEECHES OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATES. IN REPLYING TO MARCOS' COMMENT ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO HAVE ELECTION WELL-OBSERVED (REF A, PARA 9), YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT HE INVITE ICJ TO SEND TEAM FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM MARCOS THAT WE ARE DISTURBED OVER REPORTED ACTION OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN LUMPING TOGETHER AQUINO AND RADICAL LEFTISTS AND BARRING THEM ALL FROM TEMPORARY RELEASE FOR CAMPAIGNING (AS REPORTED REF B). THIS ACTION APPEARS TO CONTRADICT MARCOS' REMARKS TO YOU (REF A, PARA 7). YOUR IMMEDIATE GOAL SHOULD BE TO PERSUADE MARCOS TO OVERRULE NSC AND PERMIT TEMPORARY RELEASE OF AQUINO AND OTHER NON-RADICAL DETAINEES WHO WISH TO CAMPAIGN. RELEASE OF AQUINO TO CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION WOULD HAVE GREATER BENEFICIAL
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EFFECT HERE ON IMAGE OF ELECTIONS AND OF GOP HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY GENERALLY THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE ACTION MARCOS COULD TAKE EXCEPT FOR LIFTING MARTIAL LAW.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MARTIAL LAW WILL BE LIFTED ON OR BY A CERTAIN DATE WOULD INDEED BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AND TO NORMALIZATION IN THE PHILIPPINES. (IF IT COULD BE DONE PRIOR TO ELECTIONS THEIR VALUE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCED AND YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT WISH TO PRESS IT SO HARD AS TO UPSET THE CHANCES OF ITS BEING DONE AT THE TIME OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.) IN ANY EVENT, WITH SUCH STEPS AS THE ABOLITION OF MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND THE ELECTION OF AN INTERIM ASSEMBLY, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE LITTLE PRACTICAL REASON FOR MAINTAINING MARTIAL LAW, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF SMALL AREAS IN SOUTH WHERE ACTIVE COMBAT IS UNDERWAY.

5. IN ADDITION, AS YOU INDICATED TO MARCOS IN YOUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, HE SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE PRISONER ISSUE REMAINS A MAJOR ITEM OF CONCERN HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. POSITIVE STEPS IN OTHER AREAS WILL

NOT STEM CRITICISM OVER LACK OF PROGRESS IN ELIMINATING
THIS HIGHLY VISIBLE ISSUE.

6. IN ADDITION TO THESE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS YOU SHOULD
ALSO INFORM MARCOS ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT CONGRESSMAN
RYAN HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION CALLING FOR SUSPENSION
OF ALL MILITARY AID TO THE PHILIPPINES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUNDS, AND IS GATHERING SIGNATURES FROM OTHER CONGRESS-
MEN. STRONG ADDITIONAL CRITICISM ALONG SAME LINES WAS
FORTHCOMING AT THE HIRC HEARINGS TODAY. SECRETARY VANCE
AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY HAVE DEFENDED
BEFORE HIRC CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES
BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT PRESSURES WHICH AFFECTED AID LEVELS
LAST YEAR ARE AGAIN BUILDING AND THIS COULD AFFECT NOT
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ONLY THIS YEAR'S REQUEST BUT OUR ENTIRE EFFORT TO OBTAIN
BY QUIET INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL FOR A COMPENSATION PACKAGE TO PRESENT TO MARCOS
IN CONNECTION WITH BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS MAKES IT
ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT MARCOS MOVE IN A CLEAR,
CREDIBLE WAY ON ELECTIONS AND MARTIAL LAW, AS WELL AS
OTHER ISSUES WHICH YOU RAISED WITH HIM ON FEBRUARY13.

7. FYI: WE ARE COUNTING UPON YOU TO CONVINCE MARCOS
THAT U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS ARE AT A TURNING POINT.
THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES SHOWING REAL PROGRESS IN HUMAN
RIGHTS TO MANILA WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. IF MARCOS IS

RESPONSIVE TO THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION, THE MONDALE VISIT CAN LEAD TO A REDUCTION
IN CRITICISM FROM CONGRESS AND THE PRESS AND TO A LONG-
TERM IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. END FYI.

8. YOU SHOULD OF COURSE USE YOUR DISCRETION IN THE
MANNER AND SPECIFICITY OF YOUR PRESENTATION. WE HAVE
PRESENTED OUR THOUGHTS IN SOME DETAIL IN ORDER TO MAKE
YOU AWARE OF THE POINTS WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN, BUT
WE ARE NOT DESIROUS OF APPEARING TO DICTATE THE
SPECIFIC TERMS OF AN ELECTION TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. OUR
INTEREST IS IN SEEKING GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS AND
OVERALL PERFORMANCE, BUT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO PROVIDE A
SPECIFIC ROAD MAP. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MARTIAL LAW, BRIEFING MATERIALS, VISITS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE042011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/PHL:BAFLECK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0680, D780130-0964, D780072-0925
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780240/aaaabhuw.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81e4a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 2445, 78 MANILA 2568
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3558682
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, OVIP, PINT, RP, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (MONDALE, WALTER)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81e4a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014